



Harris County Alerts

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

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January 5, 2014

Dangerous Hard Freeze Expected This Week

(Harris County, TX) A mass of extremely cold Arctic air entering Southeast Texas this morning is expected to cause temperatures to drop well below freezing on Sunday and Monday nights.

Residents should monitor local media and the [National Weather Service](http://www.weather.gov) (NWS) for weather forecast updates. NWS may issue warnings and watches over the next several days.

While there is no precipitation associated with this system, temperatures between 10-30 degrees are possible in nearly all areas of the region. A damaging hard freeze is dangerous to the "Four P's": people, pets, pipes and plants.

Residents should take action now to protect their family and property.

PROTECT PEOPLE

- Keep warm, stay inside if possible.
- If you need to go out, dress in layers and wear hats, gloves and an appropriate coat.
- Avoid overexertion, as cold weather puts added strain on your body.
- Observe **heater safety**:

Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.

Keep heat sources at least 3 feet away from furniture and drapes.

Never leave children unattended near a space heater.

PROTECT PETS

- Bring pets inside, and move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas.
- Keep adequate food and water available.

PROTECT PIPES

- Disconnect outdoor hoses, drain and store in protected area.
- Wrap exposed faucets and pipes - including those outside the house or in unheated crawl spaces, attics, garages and other areas.

PROTECT PLANTS

- Bring potted plants inside or store in garage near interior wall to provide extra warmth and protection from wind.
- For cold-sensitive outdoor plants, put down extra mulch and consider covering with a cloth fabric of some kind to shield the plants from wind and frost.

Protect yourself from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by installing a battery-operated CO detector and never use generators, grills, camp stoves, or similar devices indoors.

It is also recommended that you prepare your car for winter. Have your car serviced and add antifreeze as needed.

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management will monitor this weather situation with our partners and will issue updates as needed on our website www.readyharris.org as well as on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/readyharris) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/readyharris).

